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Message from Mayor Fuller Concerning School Grounds for Students During School Hours/Activities

It's great to have some of our youngsters back in school buildings. While our elementary schools have the most students on-site currently, our middle and high schools also have some students attending daily as well. Students are going outside for recess and some athletes in some sports are also having practices and games.

As part of our COVID-19 protocols, our schools are paying a lot of attention to students' interactions being within cohorts, physical distancing and the use of face coverings.

To support these health efforts, **school playgrounds and school grounds during school hours are for students attending the affiliated public school** during their in-person learning time. Fields and tracks at both high schools after school are for our students' use during team practices, games and meets.

Please do not enter these areas during these hours and instead wait to use them after our students are gone.

During the COVID-19 shut down, we know that childcare providers and families (and even personal trainers and exercise companies) have used these playgrounds and school grounds a lot. Organized groups and businesses using parks, fields and courts continue to require a permit from Newton's Parks Department. Parks Dept. staff are happy to assist in obtaining a permit. (Contact the Parks Department at parks@newtonma.gov.)